

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) reaffirmed his commitment to quality, affordable health care and critical cancer-fighting research today by signing the American Cancer Society's Congressional Cancer Promise, a commitment by Members of Congress to support the American Cancer Society's legislative goals to move the country forward in the fight against cancer.

"Congress alone can't cure cancer, but we can put the necessary resources into the hands of scientists who will," **said Arcuri**. "The federal commitment to cancer research has enabled us to make enormous strides in our understanding of this complex disease. The investment we make in research and education will improve care for each and every cancer patient and move us closer to the day when we eradicate cancer."

Since taking office, Arcuri has strongly supported increasing funding for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Arcuri voted to increase NIH funding in the Labor Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill and is working with colleagues in the House and Senate to guarantee this critical funding is included in the final bill. In 2006, NIH awarded grants totaling \$7.5 million for health care research in the 24th district.

Earlier this year, Arcuri sent a letter in support of increased funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Program. Ground-breaking research performed through the DOD program has the potential to benefit not just breast cancer, but all cancers, as well as other diseases. Funding for this critical program was included in the DOD Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill which Arcuri supported and the House passed.

"This Congress is committed to investing in groundbreaking medical research, increasing health care for children and working families, and ensuring that in the richest country in the world people have access to medicine and treatment they need to stay healthy," **said Arcuri**. "We need bipartisan health care reforms to ensure quality, affordable, health care is available to the people of the 24th district."

In October, Arcuri voted twice for legislation to provide health care to over 10 million children nationwide, including 396,042 children currently enrolled in New York's SCHIP program (CHPlus), and extend coverage to an additional 268,000 eligible New York children who are not enrolled.

The Congressional Cancer Promise specifically asks signers to: make health system reform a priority; elevate prevention, early detection and survivorship; increase their commitment to cancer research; and expand access to care for all.

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